

Minutes Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission April 7, 2015

Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission held on April 7, 2015 6:30 p.m., at the Tempe, Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road 2nd Floor, Tempe, Arizona.

MEMBERS Present: Daniel Bish, Alexis Blanc, Sunday Callaway, Tiffanie Cappello Lee, Gabriel Edwards, Jason George, Sophia Gonzalez, Smita Gopalakrishnan, Timur Karamanov, Aemelia Morris, Jaren Savage, and Ellie Young.

MEMBERS Absent: Nyesha Barnes, Victoria Bennett, Zaria Guignard, Nicholas Hargis, Andrea Lara-Garcia, Chris Moffitt, Andie Niebling, Maria Ornelas, Julia Rasmussen, J.D. Scribner, Carson Streiff, and Franklin Zyriek.

City Staff Present: Lily Villa.

Guests Present: Zeny Stuart, Greg Dicharry, Elijah Lucas, and three other people affiliated with MY LIFE.

Agenda Item 1 – Call Meeting To Order/Introductions

Tiffanie Cappello-Lee, MYAC Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of the Meeting Minutes: March 17, 2015

Timur Karamanov read the minutes from the March 17, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Daniel Bish, MYAC Treasurer motioned to approve the minutes.

Second: Sunday Callaway seconded the motion.

Decision: Minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Treasurer's Report

Daniel provided the Treasurer's Report.

Agenda Item 4 – Announcements

Lily Villa, MYAC Advisor thanked the MYAC members who attended the April 6th YouthFest Tempe Top Teens and Courage Awards Recognition Dinner. The event was a great success.

Agenda Item 5 – MY Fest Debriefing

Jason George stated that MY Fest was a good event but he wished it could have been a more successful advertising opportunity for the C.I.T.Y. project. **Sunday Callaway** informed the other commissioners that the "Cards for Kids" and "Breaking the Cycle" activities that MYAC ran during the event were very successful and a lot of people wanted to make "Cards for Kids".

Tiffanie mentioned that **Nicholas Hargis** had expressed concern that the event was less hands-on than past MYAC endeavors. All commissioners who participated in MY Fest agreed with these statements.

Agenda Item 6 – 2016 Youth Town Hall Topic Survey

Tiffanie passed out a one-question survey that all MYAC members can provide to their health classes, civics classes, and P.E. classes to help the 2015-2016 MYAC members determine the 2016 Youth Town Hall discussion topics.

- The survey will simply ask students: In your opinion, what are the three most important challenges teens face in Tempe?

Agenda Item 7 – MYAC Quarterly Report

Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled.

Agenda Item 8 – 2015 Community Service Project Planning

- 1) Greg Dicharry and four other members of MY LIFE presented about the experiences of children in foster care. This enabled MYAC and MY LIFE to brainstorm the best ways MYAC can support foster care kids in Tempe. The following are some issues that the MY LIFE presenters talked about:
 - Kids are often in foster care because they have been abused or their families are not able to clothe, feed, or house them.
 - Kids who are in foster care and group homes often do not have transportation and support to participate in extracurricular activities, school dances, dating, and learning how to drive.
 - Foster care kids often feel like outcasts in classrooms and their teachers do not understand their personal circumstances.
 - Foster care kids often attend several different schools over the course of their time in the foster care system which often means that they are behind on their school work and there is a high drop-out rate among foster care kids.
- 2) The following are possible initiatives that MYAC and MY LIFE can initiate in Tempe middle and high schools:
 - Provide education to Tempe middle and high school teachers to increase their awareness of the challenges foster care students face.
 - Initiate an after-school club and sport transportation system for foster care kids.
 - Initiate a “secret club” or a group of “navigators” consisting of middle and high school kids who can help integrate foster care kids into the school environment and help them feel more comfortable in new school situations.
 - Initiate tutoring for foster care kids which would be provided by middle and high school students.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

- **BEAST Inc. Presentation**
- **2016 Youth Town Hall Survey**
- **MYAC Quarterly Report**
- **2015 Community Service Project Planning**

The Commission's next meeting will be **April 21, 2015**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Prepared by: Sunday Callaway

Reviewed by: Kim Bauman and Lily Villa

Tiffanie Cappello-Lee, Youth Town Hall Chair
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission